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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: V.K. HANDA et al.

Confirmation No.: 5709

Application No.: 10/735,892

Group Art Unit: 1626

Filing Date: December 16, 2003

Examiner: Shameem, Golam. M.

For: PROCESS FOR PREPARING  
FLORFENICOL

Attorney Docket No.: 7893-4000

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed April 13, 2006, Applicants reply as follows.

The Examiner required restriction to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

- Group I: Claims 1-10 drawn to a process for the preparation of a compound of formula X.
- Group II: Claims 11-20 drawn to a process for the preparation of a compound of formula XI
- Group III: Claims 21-42 drawn to a process for the preparation of a compound of formula VII.
- Group IV: Claims 43 and 44 drawn to compounds XIII and XIV.

Applicants elect, without traverse, Group III, claims 21-42, for prosecution in this application. Moreover, the Examiner required election of a single compound if Group III was elected. Applicants select the species where the R<sub>1</sub> group is methylsulfonyl and the resulting compound is florfenicol, which is embodied by Formula I. With regard to inventorship, Applicants do not believe that the election of Group III changes the inventorship.

The right is expressly reserved to file one or more divisional or continuing applications to protect the inventions of the non-elected groups and other disclosed, but unclaimed, subject matter prior to the issuance of this application.

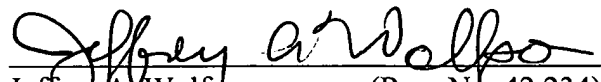
Applicants believe that the entire application is now in condition for allowance.

Since May 13, 2006 fell on a Saturday, this filing is believed to be timely and thus no fees are due in connection herewith. Should any fees be required, however, please charge such fees to Winston & Strawn LLP Deposit Account No. 50-1814.

Respectfully submitted,

5/15/06

Date

  
Jeffrey A. Wolfson (Reg. No. 42,234)

**WINSTON & STRAWN LLP**  
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202-282-5904